

# MAINE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

*Labor Market Information*

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Cumberland County recorded the lowest unemployment rate at 3.0 percent ..... page 3

Adjusted statewide unemployment increased from 4.5 percent in January to 4.6 percent in February ..... page 4

Nonfarm employment increased by 300 over the year ..... page 6

*A publication of the*

**MAINE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR**  
Labor Market  
Information Services

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# LABOR MARKET DIGEST

February Data

April 2003

## Labor Market Conditions in Maine Since 2000

### Population and Labor Force

The national recession has caused a great deal of worker dislocation in communities throughout Maine and the nation in the last two years as companies in a wide range of industries scaled back operations or closed as a result of declining demand for their products or services. Many Maine communities suffered the impact of layoffs or plant closures.

The number of worker dislocations reported to the Department of Labor increased in 2001 and 2002 from levels of previous years. The displacement of

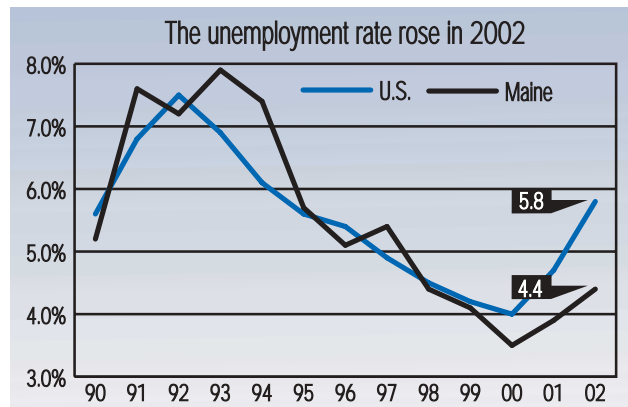
and Somerset counties, each of which was impacted by large plant closures. The unemployment rate declined in Franklin and Hancock counties.

The environment today is very different than during the last recession in the early 1990s, which was much deeper and longer in Maine than in most states. In the early 1990s unemployment was higher than the national average. The bleak job situation caused a net out-migration (more people moving out of Maine than in) of thousands of people in the first half of the 1990s. A strong recovery in the

second half of the 1990s reversed the situation as job growth accelerated, driving Maine's unemployment rate below the national average once again and spurring a net in-migration (more people moving in than out) of thousands to the state. The net in-migration continued in the first two years of the twenty-first century, averaging about 8,000 people per

year between 2000 and 2002. The recent in-migration has been higher than at any time since the 1970s (there was a net out-migration in each decade between the 1940s and 1960s).

Despite the historically high net in-migration to Maine, population growth has lagged national growth since 2000, as it has for decades, due to an older-than-average population and lower-than-average birth rates.



thousands of workers contributed to a rise in Maine's unemployment rate from a 55-year low of 3.5 percent in 2000 to 3.9 percent in 2001 and 4.4 percent in 2002. As bad as much of the news has been, Maine has fared better than much of the nation. Nationally, unemployment increased from 4.0 percent in 2000 to 4.8 percent in 2001 and 5.8 percent in 2002.

Between 2000 and 2002, unemployment rates increased in 14 of the 16 counties and declined in two counties. The largest rate increases were in York

(Cont. on page 8)

## Civilian Labor Force, Employed, and Unemployed by Labor Market Area, Not Seasonally Adjusted

AREA	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE <sup>1</sup>			EMPLOYED <sup>2</sup>			UNEMPLOYED <sup>3</sup>			UNEMPLOYMENT RATE <sup>4</sup>		
	Feb 03	Jan 03	Feb 02	Feb 03	Jan 03	Feb 02	Feb 03	Jan 03	Feb 02	Feb 03	Jan 03	Feb 02
<b>LABOR MARKET AREAS</b>												
Augusta	48,030	47,240	45,830	45,520	44,760	43,510	2,510	2,480	2,320	5.2%	5.2%	5.1%
Bangor MSA	53,700	53,200	53,300	51,700	51,200	51,600	2,000	1,900	1,800	3.6	3.7	3.3
Bath-Brunswick	34,670	34,400	34,050	33,140	32,860	32,520	1,530	1,540	1,540	4.4	4.5	4.5
Belfast	18,260	18,070	17,330	17,150	17,030	16,270	1,110	1,040	1,060	6.1	5.7	6.1
Biddeford	40,550	40,290	39,250	38,800	38,340	37,560	1,750	1,960	1,690	4.3	4.9	4.3
Boothbay Harbor	8,550	8,550	8,230	8,160	8,170	7,870	390	380	360	4.6	4.4	4.4
Bucksport	5,030	5,130	4,900	4,730	4,830	4,630	300	310	270	6.0	6.0	5.5
Calais	5,030	5,020	4,850	4,330	4,330	4,290	700	690	560	13.9	13.8	11.6
Dexter-Pittsfield	11,650	11,600	11,670	10,250	10,210	9,960	1,400	1,380	1,700	12.0	11.9	14.6
Dover-Foxcroft	7,100	7,030	6,900	6,470	6,440	6,380	630	590	520	8.8	8.4	7.6
Ellsworth-Bar Harbor	19,280	19,330	18,530	17,460	17,570	16,920	1,820	1,760	1,610	9.4	9.1	8.7
Farmington	17,830	17,390	17,530	16,760	16,280	16,610	1,070	1,100	930	6.0	6.3	5.3
Fort Kent	4,110	4,070	3,990	3,870	3,850	3,780	240	230	210	5.9	5.6	5.3
Greenville	1,110	1,110	1,000	1,020	1,030	930	80	80	70	7.6	7.3	7.2
Houlton	6,400	6,370	6,090	6,040	6,050	5,850	360	320	240	5.7	4.9	3.9
Jonesport-Milbridge	4,180	4,140	3,860	3,650	3,680	3,410	530	450	450	12.6	10.9	11.5
Kittery-York <sup>5</sup>	21,600	21,720	20,810	20,720	20,340	20,020	880	1,380	780	4.1	6.4	3.8
Lewiston-Auburn MSA	54,600	54,900	54,300	51,900	52,300	51,900	2,700	2,700	2,500	4.9	4.8	4.5
Lincoln-Howland	5,950	6,000	5,830	5,430	5,590	5,460	510	410	370	8.6	6.8	6.3
Machias-Eastport	6,670	6,400	6,430	5,900	5,660	5,690	770	750	740	11.5	11.6	11.5
Madawaska	3,770	3,740	3,650	3,630	3,580	3,510	150	160	140	3.8	4.4	3.7
Millinocket-East Millinocket	4,880	4,130	4,870	3,440	3,410	4,530	1,440	720	350	29.5	17.4	7.1
Norway-Paris	11,780	11,730	11,480	10,940	10,890	10,660	840	830	820	7.2	7.1	7.2
Outer Bangor	9,920	9,800	9,500	9,280	9,210	8,870	640	580	630	6.4	6.0	6.6
Patten-Island Falls	1,900	1,870	1,760	1,680	1,680	1,650	220	190	120	11.5	10.0	6.6
Portland MSA	138,400	140,400	137,500	134,400	136,300	133,400	4,100	4,200	4,100	2.9	3.0	3.0
Presque Isle-Caribou	20,710	20,450	20,300	19,560	19,300	19,250	1,160	1,150	1,050	5.6	5.6	5.1
Rockland	24,330	24,150	22,850	23,110	23,010	21,960	1,230	1,140	890	5.0	4.7	3.9
Rumford	10,920	10,910	10,770	10,250	10,200	10,080	660	720	690	6.1	6.6	6.4
Sanford	23,240	23,480	23,400	21,270	21,170	21,270	1,980	2,310	2,130	8.5	9.8	9.1
Sebang Lakes Region	13,520	13,560	12,780	12,810	12,840	12,150	720	720	630	5.3	5.3	4.9
Skowhegan	15,830	15,770	15,640	14,380	14,330	14,220	1,450	1,440	1,420	9.2	9.1	9.1
Stonington	5,670	5,300	5,400	5,400	5,050	5,130	280	260	270	4.8	4.8	4.9
Van Buren	1,400	1,390	1,420	1,310	1,290	1,320	100	100	100	6.8	7.2	7.2
Waterville	25,390	25,220	24,480	23,580	23,450	23,040	1,810	1,770	1,440	7.1	7.0	5.9
MAINE	685,900	683,900	670,500	648,000	646,200	636,100	37,900	37,700	34,400	5.5	5.5	5.1
UNITED STATES (000)	145,693	145,301	144,266	136,433	135,907	135,443	9,260	9,395	8,823	6.4	6.5	6.1

<sup>1</sup> Civilian labor force, employed, and unemployed estimates are by place of residence. Current month estimates are preliminary; prior month and year-ago estimates are revised. Items may not add due to rounding. All data exclude members of the Armed Forces. MSA stands for Metropolitan Statistical Area.

<sup>2</sup> Total employment includes nonfarm wage and salary workers, agricultural workers, unpaid family workers, domestics, the self employed, and workers involved in labor disputes.

<sup>3</sup> People are classified as unemployed, regardless of their eligibility for unemployment benefits or public assistance, if they meet all of the following criteria: 1) they were not employed during the survey week; 2) they were available for work at that time; and 3) they made specific efforts to find employment some time during the prior four weeks. Persons laid off from their former jobs and awaiting recall and those expecting to report to a job within 30 days need not be looking for work to be counted as unemployed.

<sup>4</sup> The unemployment rate is calculated by dividing the total number of unemployed by the total civilian labor force, and is expressed as a percent.

<sup>5</sup> Kittery-York is the five-town Maine portion of the Portsmouth-Rochester PMSA which includes towns in both Maine and New Hampshire.

Source: Maine Department of Labor, Labor Market Information Services, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

## Civilian Labor Force, Employed, and Unemployed by County, Not Seasonally Adjusted<sup>1</sup>

AREA	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE			EMPLOYED			UNEMPLOYED			UNEMPLOYMENT RATE		
	Feb 03	Jan 03	Feb 02	Feb 03	Jan 03	Feb 02	Feb 03	Jan 03	Feb 02	Feb 03	Jan 03	Feb 02
COUNTY												
Androscoggin	61,180	61,420	60,730	58,020	58,280	57,880	3,160	3,140	2,850	5.2%	5.1%	4.7%
Aroostook	37,800	37,390	36,800	35,610	35,270	34,960	2,190	2,120	1,840	5.8	5.7	5.0
Cumberland	145,130	146,820	143,700	140,740	142,370	139,270	4,400	4,450	4,420	3.0	3.0	3.1
Franklin	14,950	14,570	14,740	14,170	13,770	14,030	790	810	710	5.3	5.5	4.8
Hancock	27,410	27,190	26,350	25,230	25,060	24,390	2,180	2,130	1,960	7.9	7.8	7.4
Kennebec	62,610	61,780	59,910	59,150	58,350	56,910	3,460	3,420	3,000	5.5	5.5	5.0
Knox	21,300	21,140	19,990	20,210	20,130	19,210	1,090	1,020	780	5.1	4.8	3.9
Lincoln	17,470	17,400	16,760	16,580	16,520	15,980	890	890	780	5.1	5.1	4.7
Oxford	27,250	27,240	26,550	25,460	25,370	24,770	1,790	1,870	1,780	6.6	6.9	6.7
Penobscot	80,730	79,350	79,820	75,470	75,040	75,720	5,260	4,310	4,100	6.5	5.4	5.1
Piscataquis	8,310	8,250	8,020	7,590	7,570	7,400	720	690	610	8.7	8.3	7.6
Sagadahoc	16,220	16,070	15,910	15,500	15,370	15,210	720	700	700	4.4	4.3	4.4
Somerset	24,970	24,890	24,510	22,480	22,390	22,110	2,490	2,500	2,400	10.0	10.0	9.8
Waldo	24,090	23,880	23,050	22,540	22,410	21,600	1,550	1,470	1,450	6.4	6.2	6.3
Washington	16,290	15,970	15,550	14,250	14,040	13,750	2,040	1,930	1,800	12.5	12.1	11.6
York	100,200	100,510	98,120	94,990	94,230	92,890	5,200	6,280	5,230	5.2	6.2	5.3
MAINE	685,900	683,900	670,500	648,000	646,200	636,100	37,900	37,700	34,400	5.5	5.5	5.1
UNITED STATES (000)	145,693	145,301	144,266	136,433	135,907	135,443	9,260	9,395	8,823	6.4	6.5	6.1

<sup>1</sup> See page 2 for footnotes 1 through 4 and source.

### Area Analyst's Corner

#### Central Maine

Ken Bridges (207) 624-5199

In Augusta, electrical component maker **SCI Samina** finally closed, idling the last 250 workers. ♦ **Wendy's Restaurant** in Augusta broke ground on their new Civic Center Drive restaurant, and expects to employ around 40 workers. ♦ Textiles manufacturer **Guilford Industries** in Guilford laid off 25 workers. ♦ **Creative Apparel** in Harmony added a few workers and lots of overtime in their stepped-up efforts to make the chemical warfare suits for the armed forces. ♦ **Mid State Machine Products** in Winslow has a contract to produce parts for the M-1A Abrams tank.

#### Western Maine

Gerard Dennison (207) 753-9045

Construction of the **Wal-Mart** distribution center in Lewiston has been delayed for one year. Company officials do not want to build more centers during slow economic times. ♦ The owners of the new **Lewiston Maniacs** hockey team signed a 10-year agreement to relocate their Quebec Major Junior League franchise from Sherbrooke, Quebec, to Lewiston's Central Maine Civic Center next fall. The deal includes a \$2 million loan guarantee from the city of Lewiston which will be used to renovate and expand the civic center to accommodate up to 4,000 fans.

#### North/East Maine

Craig Holland (207) 941-3076

**Georgia Pacific Corp.** permanently ceased paper production at their Old Town facility, laying off approximately 300 production workers and an as yet unspecified number of managers. ♦ In Madawaska, **Frasier Papers Inc.** announced the layoff of 190 workers. Layoffs start next month and will be completed by early 2004. ♦ The U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Bangor approved the final details in the impending sale of **Great Northern Paper to Brascan Corp.** Brascan hopes to have the company's East Millinocket Mill up and running as soon as possible. The Millinocket Mill will remain closed while capital improvements are made to the facility.

#### Southern Maine

Merrill Huhtala (207) 822-0216

After 84 years in Portland, **Levin's** announced the closure of its Congress Street store. Their Windham store will stay open. ♦ **Hussey Seating Company** laid off 25 employees in North Berwick. ♦ **O'Natural's** opened their second natural foods restaurant in the Portland Old Port. ♦ The **General Dynamics** plant in Saco produced most of the General Dynamics-made weapons used in Iraq. They have current contracts of over \$65 million to produce grenade launchers and weapons systems for military aircraft.

## Civilian Labor Force, Employed, and Unemployed in Maine, Seasonally Adjusted (in thousands)

ITEM	2003		2002										
	Feb	Jan	Dec	Nov	Oct	Sep	Aug	Jul	Jun	May	Apr	Mar	Feb
Civilian Labor Force	700.1	697.9	687.7	687.2	687.1	686.0	686.6	687.3	686.5	685.4	685.6	685.0	684.4
Employed	668.0	666.2	654.8	655.2	656.2	655.5	656.4	657.2	656.7	656.4	656.3	655.9	655.8
Unemployed	32.1	31.7	32.9	32.1	31.0	30.5	30.2	30.1	29.8	29.1	29.3	29.2	28.5
Unemployment Rate (%)	4.6	4.5	4.8	4.7	4.5	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.3	4.2	4.3	4.3	4.2

<sup>1</sup> See page 2 for footnotes 1 through 4 and source.

## Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment in Maine, Seasonally Adjusted<sup>1</sup> (in thousands)

INDUSTRY	2003		2002										
	Feb	Jan	Dec	Nov	Oct	Sep	Aug	Jul	Jun	May	Apr	Mar	Feb
Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment <sup>2</sup>	603.3	605.4	604.2	603.8	605.9	606.3	607.8	608.1	606.4	606.4	606.0	605.4	604.7
Construction	28.4	28.8	29.3	29.5	29.2	29.4	29.4	29.4	29.2	29.1	29.2	29.0	29.2
Manufacturing	64.6	65.1	67.2	68.0	67.3	67.3	67.1	68.1	67.6	68.2	68.7	68.9	69.6
Trade, Transportation and Public Utilities	122.8	123.5	124.9	125.4	125.5	125.4	125.1	124.6	123.9	124.2	124.2	123.9	123.6
Professional and Business Services	50.9	51.3	50.9	51.6	51.2	51.4	51.8	51.9	51.7	51.7	51.6	51.4	51.1
Educational and Health Services	106.4	106.3	105.6	105.4	104.6	104.6	105.0	105.0	105.1	105.1	104.9	104.2	103.7
Leisure and Hospitality Services	57.7	57.7	56.4	56.4	56.3	56.3	57.5	57.7	56.8	57.1	56.9	57.0	56.8
Government	103.3	103.2	103.1	102.5	103.1	102.9	103.0	103.7	103.5	103.4	102.5	102.6	102.5

<sup>1</sup> See footnotes 1 and 2 on page 7. <sup>2</sup>The nonfarm wage and salary estimate is seasonally adjusted independently. Not all supersectors are seasonally adjusted. Natural resources, information, financial activities, and other services are not suitable for seasonal adjustment because they have very little seasonal and irregular movement. Source: see page 2.

## Maine Unemployment Rate 4.6 Percent in February

State Labor Commissioner Valerie Landry announced that the seasonally-adjusted February unemployment rate for Maine was 4.6 percent, up from 4.5 percent in January and 4.2 percent a year ago.

“Although the Maine seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate rose slightly between January and February to 4.6 percent, it is well below the national February rate of 5.8 percent,” said Commissioner Landry.

Between January and February, seasonally-adjusted nonfarm wage and salary jobs fell by 2,100 to 603,300. Job losses were recorded in trade, transportation, and utilities; manufacturing; construction; and professional and business services.

Between February 2002 and February 2003, seasonally-adjusted nonfarm wage and salary jobs fell by 1,400. The manufacturing sector recorded the largest job loss, with declines in paper, wood products, and computer and electronic products. Construction jobs also declined over the past year. Partially offsetting these job losses, gains were recorded in educational and health services, leisure and hospitality services, other services, and government.

Other New England states reporting their seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate for February include New Hampshire, 3.8 percent; Vermont, 4.0 percent; Rhode Island, 5.1 percent; and Massachusetts, 5.3 percent. The adjusted national rate for February was 5.8 percent, up

from 5.7 percent in January and 5.6 percent in February 2002.

The not-seasonally-adjusted Maine unemployment rate for February was 5.5 percent, unchanged from January and up from 5.1 percent for February 2002. The unadjusted national rate was 6.4 percent for February, down from 6.5 percent for January and up from 6.1 percent for February 2002. Not-seasonally-adjusted February unemployment rates for Maine counties ranged from 3.0 percent in Cumberland County to 12.5 percent in Washington County.

Not-seasonally-adjusted nonfarm wage and salary jobs in Maine rose by 1,600 between January and February. State and local government and private educational services rose seasonally as winter vacation breaks ended in colleges and schools. Retail trade jobs dropped due to the end of the holiday shopping season. Normal seasonal losses were recorded in construction.

Between February 2002 and February 2003, not-seasonally-adjusted nonfarm wage and salary jobs were largely unchanged. Health care and social services industries increased by 2,100, and state and local government rose by a combined 1,300. A variety of manufacturing industries recorded job declines, with the largest losses in paper, wood products, computer and electronic products, and transportation equipment.

## Selected Regular Unemployment Compensation Program Indicators

Key Data	Feb 2003	Jan 2003	Feb 2002
Average Duration	17.2	17.2	14.9
Average Weekly Benefit Amount*	\$227.02	\$224.35	\$219.58
Exhaustees	892	959	869

\* For totally unemployed claimants, excluding dependency allowances.

### Weekly Initial Claims

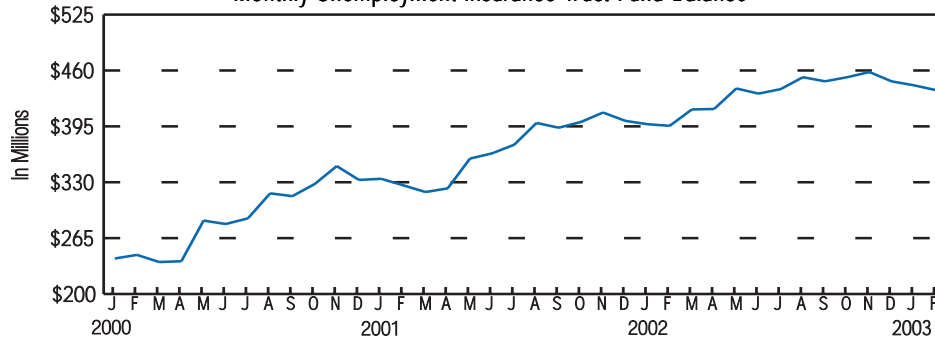
Week	3/29	3/22	3/15	3/8	3/1	2/22	2/15
2003	1,515	1,282	1,404	1,128	1,720	1,416	1,670
Week	3/31	3/24	3/17	3/10	3/3	3/24	2/17
2002	1,712	1,411	1,396	1,138	1,396	1,255	1,460

### Continued Claims Less Partial\*

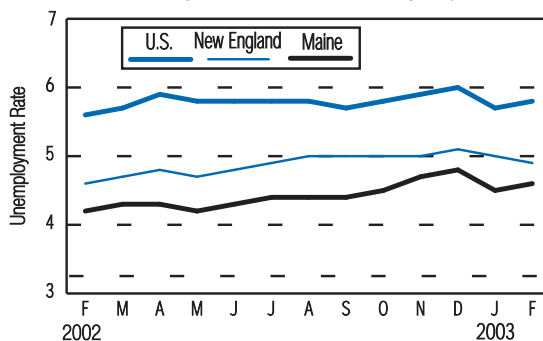
Feb 2003	Jan 2003	Feb 2002
16,192	14,639	14,000

\* For the week including the 12<sup>th</sup> of the month.

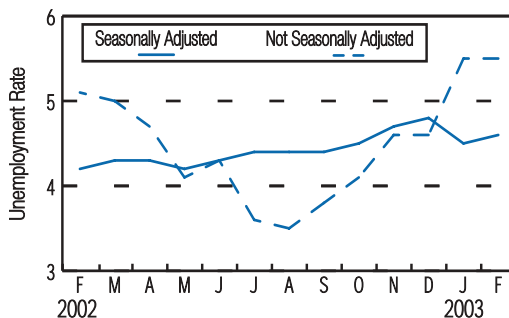
Monthly Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund Balance



Unemployment Rates, Seasonally Adjusted



Unemployment Rates for Maine

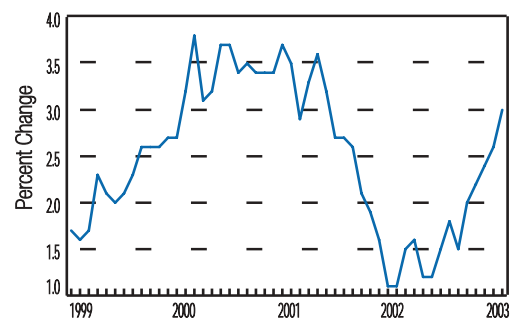


## U.S. Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers (CPI-U)

Item	Feb 03	Jan 03	Feb 02	Dec 02
(1982-1984 = 100) All Items	183.1	181.7	177.8	180.9

Percent Change from Prior Month	+0.8%
Percent Change from 12 Months Ago	+3.0%
Percent change from Last December	+1.2%

Over-the-Year Change in CPI-U





## Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment, Not Seasonally Adjusted (in thousands)

INDUSTRY	MAINE			PORTLAND MSA			LEWISTON-AUBURN MSA		
	Feb 03	Jan 03	Feb 02	Feb 03	Jan 03	Feb 02	Feb 03	Jan 03	Feb 02
<b>Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment</b>	<b>585.8</b>	<b>584.2</b>	<b>585.5</b>	<b>151.1</b>	<b>153.1</b>	<b>150.8</b>	<b>45.3</b>	<b>45.7</b>	<b>45.5</b>
<b>Total Private</b>	<b>479.3</b>	<b>481.6</b>	<b>480.3</b>	<b>130.3</b>	<b>132.3</b>	<b>131.0</b>	<b>39.7</b>	<b>40.2</b>	<b>40.0</b>
<b>Goods Producing</b>	<b>92.3</b>	<b>93.9</b>	<b>96.5</b>	<b>18.5</b>	<b>18.9</b>	<b>18.3</b>	<b>8.2</b>	<b>8.3</b>	<b>8.7</b>
<b>Natural Resources and Mining</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>2.8</b>	*	*	*	*	*	*
Logging	2.5	2.5	2.7	*	*	*	*	*	*
<b>Construction</b>	<b>25.0</b>	<b>26.1</b>	<b>25.5</b>	*	*	*	*	*	*
Construction of Buildings	7.2	7.3	7.1	*	*	*	*	*	*
Heavy and Civil Engineering Const.	2.8	3.0	2.7	*	*	*	*	*	*
Specialty Trade Contractors	15.0	15.8	15.7	*	*	*	*	*	*
<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>64.6</b>	<b>65.1</b>	<b>68.2</b>	<b>11.0</b>	<b>11.1</b>	<b>11.5</b>	<b>6.3</b>	<b>6.4</b>	<b>6.6</b>
<b>Durable Goods</b>	<b>34.9</b>	<b>35.2</b>	<b>35.9</b>	*	*	*	*	*	*
Wood Product Manufacturing	6.2	6.2	6.7	*	*	*	*	*	*
Computer and Electronic Product Mfg.	4.4	4.4	4.8	2.5	2.5	2.7	*	*	*
Transportation Equipment Mfg.	10.1	10.2	10.5	*	*	*	*	*	*
<b>Non-Durable Goods</b>	<b>29.7</b>	<b>29.9</b>	<b>32.3</b>	*	*	*	*	*	*
Leather and Allied Product Mfg.	2.7	2.7	2.8	*	*	*	*	*	*
Paper Manufacturing	10.1	10.0	11.8	*	*	*	*	*	*
<b>Service-Providing</b>	<b>493.5</b>	<b>490.3</b>	<b>489.0</b>	<b>132.6</b>	<b>134.2</b>	<b>132.5</b>	<b>37.1</b>	<b>37.4</b>	<b>36.8</b>
<b>Trade, Transportation, &amp; Utilities</b>	<b>118.0</b>	<b>120.8</b>	<b>118.1</b>	<b>32.2</b>	<b>33.4</b>	<b>33.6</b>	<b>9.2</b>	<b>9.5</b>	<b>9.5</b>
<b>Wholesale Trade</b>	<b>19.8</b>	<b>19.9</b>	<b>19.7</b>	<b>7.1</b>	<b>7.2</b>	<b>7.3</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>1.2</b>
<b>Retail Trade</b>	<b>81.8</b>	<b>84.3</b>	<b>81.8</b>	<b>20.3</b>	<b>21.3</b>	<b>21.2</b>	<b>6.6</b>	<b>6.8</b>	<b>6.8</b>
Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers	10.4	10.4	10.2	*	*	*	*	*	*
Food and Beverage Stores	18.4	18.8	18.4	4.3	4.4	4.4	*	*	*
General Merchandise Stores	11.0	11.3	11.1	*	*	*	*	*	*
Nonstore Retailers	6.8	7.4	7.7	*	*	*	*	*	*
<b>Transportation, Warehousing, &amp; Utilities</b>	<b>16.4</b>	<b>16.6</b>	<b>16.6</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>1.5</b>
Utilities	2.2	2.2	2.2	*	*	*	*	*	*
Transportation and Warehousing	14.2	14.4	14.4	*	*	*	*	*	*
<b>Information</b>	<b>11.5</b>	<b>11.5</b>	<b>11.7</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>0.7</b>
Publishing Industries	3.4	3.3	3.5	*	*	*	*	*	*
<b>Financial Activities</b>	<b>34.4</b>	<b>34.4</b>	<b>34.6</b>	<b>14.3</b>	<b>14.5</b>	<b>14.3</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>2.8</b>
<b>Finance and Insurance</b>	<b>28.1</b>	<b>28.1</b>	<b>28.3</b>	<b>11.6</b>	<b>11.8</b>	<b>11.9</b>	*	*	*
Ins. Carriers & Related Activities	12.2	12.3	12.8	*	*	*	*	*	*
<b>Real Estate &amp; Rental &amp; Leasing</b>	<b>6.3</b>	<b>6.3</b>	<b>6.3</b>	*	*	*	*	*	*
<b>Professional and Business Services</b>	<b>49.5</b>	<b>49.7</b>	<b>49.4</b>	<b>18.7</b>	<b>18.7</b>	<b>18.9</b>	<b>5.7</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>5.4</b>
<b>Prof., Scientific, &amp; Technical Svcs.</b>	<b>22.3</b>	<b>22.3</b>	<b>22.6</b>	*	*	*	*	*	*
<b>Mgmt. of Companies &amp; Enterprises</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>6.3</b>	*	*	*	*	*	*
<b>Admin. &amp; Support &amp; Waste Mgmt. Svcs.</b>	<b>21.4</b>	<b>21.4</b>	<b>20.5</b>	*	*	*	*	*	*
<b>Education and Health Services</b>	<b>106.8</b>	<b>104.6</b>	<b>104.2</b>	<b>24.7</b>	<b>24.6</b>	<b>24.2</b>	<b>8.6</b>	<b>8.7</b>	<b>8.5</b>
<b>Educational Services</b>	<b>18.7</b>	<b>16.7</b>	<b>18.2</b>	*	*	*	*	*	*
<b>Health Care and Social Assistance</b>	<b>88.1</b>	<b>87.9</b>	<b>86.0</b>	<b>22.4</b>	<b>22.3</b>	<b>21.4</b>	*	*	*
Ambulatory Health Care Services	23.7	23.7	23.4	*	*	*	*	*	*
Hospitals	25.8	25.8	25.0	*	*	*	*	*	*
Nursing and Residential Care	22.7	22.5	22.0	*	*	*	*	*	*
Social Assistance	15.9	15.9	15.6	*	*	*	*	*	*
<b>Leisure and Hospitality</b>	<b>47.0</b>	<b>47.0</b>	<b>46.7</b>	<b>12.4</b>	<b>12.8</b>	<b>12.2</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>3.0</b>
<b>Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation</b>	<b>7.2</b>	<b>7.1</b>	<b>7.2</b>	*	*	*	*	*	*
<b>Accommodation and Food Services</b>	<b>39.8</b>	<b>39.9</b>	<b>39.5</b>	*	*	*	*	*	*
Accommodation	6.9	6.8	6.9	*	*	*	*	*	*
Food Services and Drinking Places	32.9	33.1	32.6	*	*	*	*	*	*
<b>Other Services</b>	<b>19.8</b>	<b>19.7</b>	<b>19.1</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>5.1</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>1.4</b>
Repair and Maintenance	5.2	5.1	5.0	*	*	*	*	*	*
<b>Government</b>	<b>106.5</b>	<b>102.6</b>	<b>105.2</b>	<b>20.8</b>	<b>20.8</b>	<b>19.8</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>5.5</b>
Federal	13.8	13.9	13.8	2.4	2.4	2.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
State	29.7	26.5	29.1	4.9	4.9	5.0	0.9	0.9	0.9
Local <sup>2</sup>	63.0	62.2	62.3	13.5	13.5	12.5	4.4	4.3	4.3

Footnotes: See page 7.

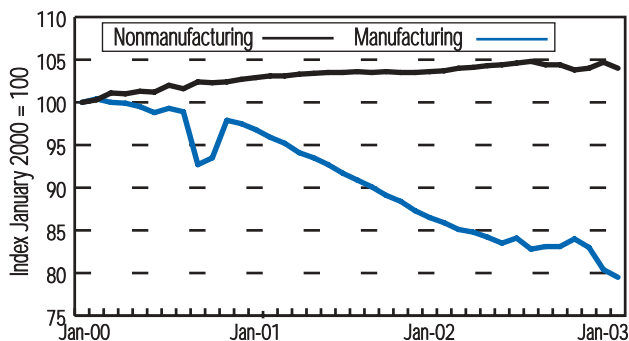
## Earnings and Hours of Production Workers in Manufacturing Industries<sup>1</sup> Not Seasonally Adjusted

AREA AND INDUSTRY	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS			AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS			AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS			ANNUAL AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS		
	Feb 03	Jan 03	Feb 02	Feb 03	Jan 03	Feb 02	Feb 03	Jan 03	Feb 02	2002	2001	2000
<b>STATEWIDE</b>												
Manufacturing	\$634.70	\$644.40	\$605.54	39.3	40.0	39.5	\$16.15	\$16.11	\$15.33	\$15.55	\$14.71	\$14.28
Durable Goods	614.46	633.95	605.14	38.5	39.4	39.5	15.96	16.09	15.32	15.34	14.50	13.50
Nondurable Goods	655.64	654.88	604.40	40.1	40.6	39.4	16.35	16.13	15.34	15.75	14.92	15.10
<b>PORTLAND MSA</b>												
Manufacturing	539.18	542.93	514.96	41.7	41.7	40.2	12.93	13.02	12.81	12.92	12.52	12.14

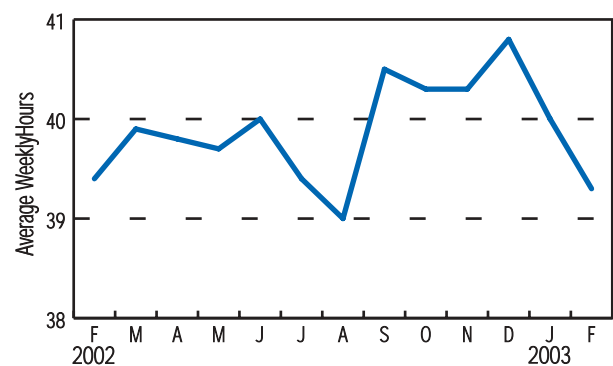
<sup>1</sup> Hours worked and earnings data are computed based on payroll figures for the week including the 12th of the month for manufacturing production workers. Average hourly earnings are calculated on a gross basis, and include such factors as premium pay for overtime and shift differential, as well as changes in basic hourly and incentive rates of pay. Average weekly earnings are the product of weekly hours worked and hourly earnings.

Source: See page 2.

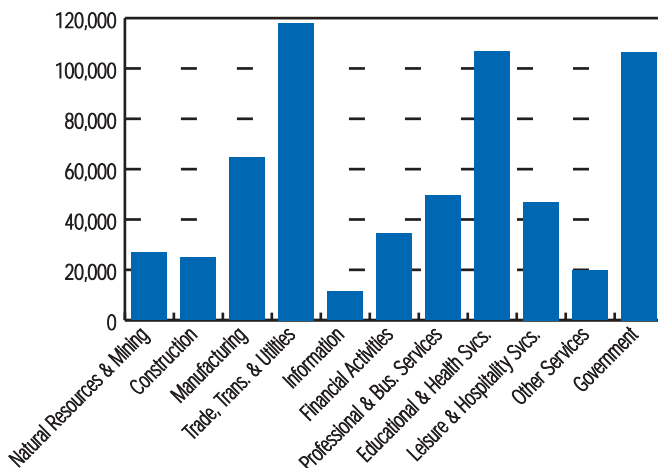
**Nonfarm Employment Trend by Sector  
January 2000-February 2003<sup>1</sup>**



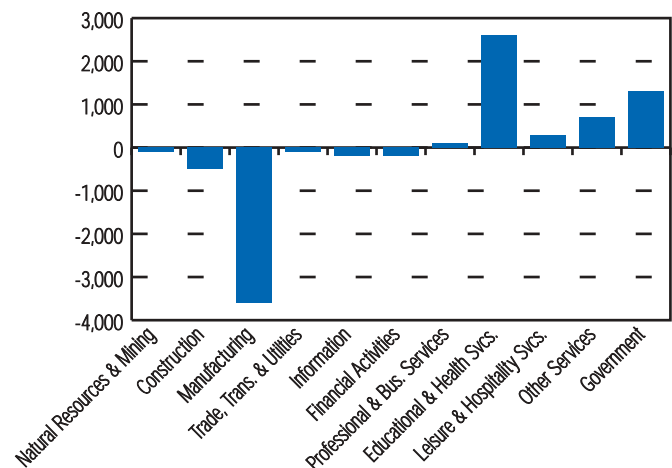
**Hours Worked by Manufacturing  
Production Workers, Maine<sup>2</sup>**



**Nonfarm Employment by Industry Supersector  
Maine, February 2003<sup>2</sup>**



**Nonfarm Employment by Industry Supersector  
Maine, Over-the-Year Change, February 2003<sup>2</sup>**



<sup>1</sup> Seasonally Adjusted. <sup>2</sup> Not Seasonally Adjusted.

Footnotes: From page 6.

<sup>1</sup> Nonfarm wage and salary employment estimates include all full- and part-time wage and salary workers who worked during or received pay for the pay period which includes the 12th of the month. Domestic workers in private households, proprietors, the self-employed, and unpaid family workers are excluded. Estimates measure the number of jobs by industry. Current month's estimates are preliminary; prior month and year-ago estimates are revised. These estimates are benchmarked to March 2002. As a measure of reliability, the March 2002 benchmark revision for total nonfarm wage and salary employment was .08 percent higher than the original sample-based estimate.

<sup>2</sup> Regular teachers are included in summer months whether or not specifically paid in those months.

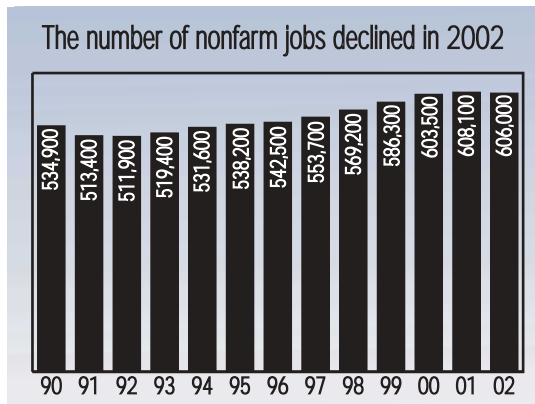
\* Where an employment estimate is not entered, either the data is not available in sufficient detail for publication or is nondisclosable by law.

Source: See page 2.

(Cont. from page 1)

## Nonfarm Jobs

Despite slower-than-average population growth, non-farm wage and salary job growth in Maine outstripped national growth between 1998 and 2001. As the recession set in, job growth dropped from an average of 16,600 net new jobs (1998 to 2000) to 4,600 in 2001. In 2002 Maine had a net loss of 2,100 jobs, the first net job loss since 1992. Nationally, the situation has been worse. The number of nonfarm jobs increased slightly in 2001, then declined by 1.1 million in 2002.



Many industries have felt the impact of declining demand, but most of the job losses have been concentrated

in goods-producing industries which shed 4,400 jobs in 2001 and 7,300 jobs in 2002. The job losses were mostly in manufacturing industries, especially in leather products and textile products, each of which has been in decline for many years. Losses were also recorded in computer and electronic components, wood products, and paper products, each of which tends to be highly cyclical.

The construction industry fared unusually well during the recent recession. Construction is usually among the first industries to be adversely impacted and often

among the hardest hit by slowing or declining levels of economic activity. Unlike the early 1990s recession which wiped out more than one third of all construction jobs over a five-year period, the number of construction jobs in 2002 was unchanged from 2000, rising slightly in 2001, and dropping by a similar amount in 2002. Low mortgage interest rates and other factors have helped to stabilize and prop up the level of construction in recent years.

Job growth in service-providing industries has continued since 2000, though at a slower rate than in the second half of the 1990s. Service-providing industries created 9,000 net new jobs in 2001 and 5,200 in 2002. Job growth was largely concentrated in educational services, health care, social assistance, accommodation and food services, finance, and local government

## Wages

Growth in total wages paid has slowed significantly since 1999, mostly due to slowing job growth, but partly due to many displaced workers settling for lower paying jobs after not being able to find jobs at pay levels comparable to their prior employment. Much of the recent worker displacement has been in industries with higher-than-average wages and much of the job growth has been in industries with lower-than-average wages.

The average wage for in the first nine months of 2002 was up about three percent from the same period in 2001. Average wage growth in 2002 was down from gains of the prior five years, but higher than the small gains recorded in the early 1990s recession.

For a copy of the complete report, please visit our Web site at [www.Maine.gov/labor/lmis](http://www.Maine.gov/labor/lmis) (click on *Labor Market Conditions in Maine Since 2000*) or contact Glenn Mills at (207) 287-2859.

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